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Seedz named 'Best New Brewery' **PAGE 3**

New Buffalo City Council approves dredging project proposal **PAGE 4**

John's Farm Market debuts at new location **PAGE 8**

Goldberry Woods offering garden walks, new planting experience **PAGE 11**

Request submitted to build solar farm **PAGE 12**

Region of Three Oaks Museum debuts 2024 displays **PAGE 18**

LIVE ON THE RED CARPET...

STUDENTS GET GLAMMED UP FOR MASQUERADE PROM

— PAGE 10 —

PHOTO OF STUDENTS GEARING UP FOR A MASQUERADE-THEMED PROM BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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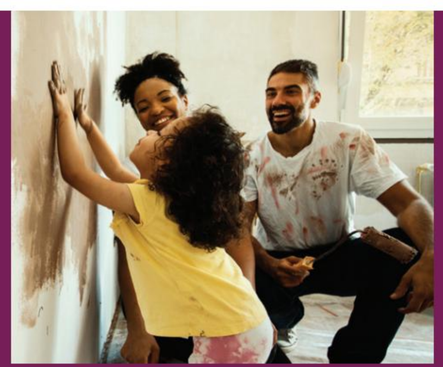

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Berrien County Health Department welcomes Dr. Jonathan Beyer as medical director

The Berrien County Health Department is welcoming Dr. Jonathan Beyer as its new medical director.

Dr. Jonathan Beyer

Beyer will provide medical direction for BCHD's public health policies and program operations, including disease prevention and control services, clinical and community health services programs, environmental health programs and substance abuse prevention services. He also will provide leadership in policy development and coordination of health care services in the community as well as epidemiological guidance to BCHD programs and staff, local physicians and community initiatives, among other responsibilities.

Beyer will begin as medical director June 4. He succeeds Dr. Rex Cabaltica, who is stepping down June 3 to move closer to family.

"I am pleased to join the Berrien County Health Department as its medical director," Beyer said. "My career to date has been spent in emergency medicine and emergency medical services, which are very reactive. Supporting public health in our county provides me with a wonderful opportunity to address disease before it becomes an emergency and be proactive on a community level.

"BCHD and its team of dedicated public health professionals are at the forefront of this important work, and I am honored to now be part of this endeavor."

Beyer has spent the past 11 years as an emergency room physician at Corewell Health Lakeland and serves as EMS medical director for the Berrien County Medical Control Authority, which provides supervision and coordination of emergency medical services for the county. He was also a member of the Berrien County Sheriff's Tactical Response Team and Berrien County Hazmat Team. He previously spent 11 years as a paramedic in the Philadelphia area.

"Dr. Beyer brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to public health to his new role," BCHD Health Officer Guy Miller said. "His extensive background and professional expertise make him an ideal choice to provide medical direction to the Berrien County Health Department.

"He has a proven track record of excellence in emergency medicine, and his experience will be invaluable in expanding and improving our department's programs to better serve the residents of Berrien County. Dr. Beyer will be a tremendous asset to the Health Department and the broader Berrien County community."

Beyer received a bachelor's degree in political science from George Washington University and a medical degree from West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He is certified in emergency medical services and emergency medicine by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

A native of the Philadelphia area, Beyer resides in Berrien County.

— STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit, Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber President and CEO Arthur Havlicek, Ziarko (with son Lew), Andrews and New Buffalo Township Clerk Michelle Hannon

Seedz named 'Best New Brewery'

Recently, Ryan Ziarko, owner of Seedz Brewery in Union Pier, received a special tribute from state Rep. Joey Andrews (D-St. Joseph) for the brewery being named "Best New Brewery" in the country as part of USA Today 10 Best 2024's Reader's Choice Awards. A panel of beer experts nominated their top picks of breweries that have opened in the past three years. The public had the month of February to cast an online vote for Seedz, which was among 15 other breweries across the country that was nominated. — STAFF REPORTS

Your Actions tell me everything, your questions tell me the rest.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

New Buffalo City Council approves dredging project proposal

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo City Council approved awarding the maintenance dredging project to The King Company, Inc. in the amount of $178,000 at a special Monday, May 6, meeting.

Dredging must occur due to shoaling that was indicated during annual maintenance soundings that were conducted in the harbor earlier this year. The city can only dredge in the areas covered by the emergency dredge permit from 2023.

Due to spawning restrictions, there's a moratorium on dredging from May 15 – June 30. Based on an update from EGLE, the city was granted a waiver on this restriction in April.

In April, bid advertisement emails were sent to eight marine contractors that notified them of the dredging project and bidding schedule. Three marine contractors stated their intention to bid on the project, and an additional seven accessed the Abonmarche's Bid Room for the bid documents.

Funding for the project is available in the city's Dredge Fund.

In addition to The King Company, a proposal was also received from Donkersloot & Sons Marine Development Co. for $237,040.

Anne Smith, senior coastal engineer with Abonmarche, said that both King Company and Donkersloot said they'd be available to start after the Fourth of July, with King Company's completion date being Aug. 1 and Donkersloot being Aug. 16.

New Buffalo City Mayor John Humphrey expressed concerns that the project wouldn't be done in the next two weeks, and asked if the city should try to find someone "in the immediate interim."

"We can sign this but the problem then becomes that we're looking at deep July - we're going to have six weeks of a lot of problems, especially with no coast guard four days a week," he said.

Smith said that water levels are still going up this time of the year and will keep increasing into July right until about August "as long as it doesn't get super dry - we've been pretty wet."

"A couple years ago, when we were dredging, we went through that same quick time frame and didn't get it and I know areas had to be marked with buoys but the channel did remain navigable through August," she said.

Councilmembers approved payment for fence repair at Pine Grove Cemetery for $15,500..

A quote for the prepping and painting was received from E.I. Construction in the amount of $31,000. It was recommended at the April special meeting of the Cemetery Board that the cost be split (50/50) between the city and township.

Humphrey said that the work, which will be only on the front of the fence and that it'd be a "25-year fix."

He added that work has not been done "historically over a good 20-year period," which is why the fence is in such disrepair. If regular maintenance is performed, the situation on the front of the fence, which has "been left to rot," won't occur on the rest of the fence.

The cemetery board "will take steps to ensure the internal maintenance of employees is better back to where it is," Humphrey said.

Councilmembers approved marina sidewalk work by Pajay, Inc. in the amount of $14,950, with funding available in the 2023-2024 Parks budget.

The city is in the process of upgrading the facilities at the marina, which includes the removal of sidewalk around the old pedestals.

The project will involve upgrading the remaining portions of the sidewalk around the marina as well as to address the void that was discovered there.

Make me a fragrance that smells like love.
— Christian Dior

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN MUSIC SPRING SHOWCASE AT THE ACORN

The School of American Music Spring Showcase will feature performances of intermediate and advanced students from the studios of instructors Tom Fischer, Madison Kutch, Donna Mitchell, Tom Parisi, Garth Taylor, and Denise Vanden Bussche at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 19, at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive in Three Oaks.

The showcase is free admission and is an excellent way for the community to sample what the School of American Music in Three Oaks has to offer.

Performances will include "Sound of Silence" and "What Was I Made For?" on piano, vocal solos "Cry Me a River" and "I Feel Pretty", blues and ragtime medleys on guitar and many others.

The School of American Music Spring Recital, featuring students not in the Spring Showcase, will be at 2 and 4 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at the Episcopal Church of the Mediator located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert. The recital is free and open to the public. — **STAFF REPORTS**

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Huge cocaine/ fentanyl bust on area highway

A man and woman were allegedly caught with more than 60 pounds of cocaine and fentanyl in northern La Porte County.

Maricela Bonilla-Torres, 43, and Erick Montes, 44, both from Houston, Texas, are charged in La Porte Circuit Court with dealing in cocaine or a narcotic drug.

According to La Porte County Police, the findings of the investigation indicate they went from Texas to California to possibly pick up the drugs and were passing through La Porte County on their way to New York for potential delivery when stopped on May 1.

They were in a vehicle pulled over for lane movement violations on the Indiana Toll Road near Rolling Prairie.

Police said 30 bags each containing one kilo of cocaine and fentanyl were found in the back of the vehicle following an alert by a K-9 dog.

The weight of all of the bags combined was equivalent to 66 pounds.

Bonilla-Torres and Montes could each face anywhere from a 10 to 30 year sentence on the Level 2 felony charge.

Police said officers brought in the drug sniffing dog after becoming suspicious about the conflicting stories offered by the suspects on their travels and wide swings in their behavior after stopped.

They were each being held in the La Porte County Jail on $50,000 bond. — STAN MADDUX

Stabosz blames crossover vote for election defeat

BY STAN MADDUX

The primary election in La Porte County seemed mostly about stopping Tim Stabosz in his bid to gain one of the elected seats on the executive body of county government.

Leading up to Tuesday's election, some public officials purchased blocks of airtime on local radio stations to denounce Stabosz, a central figure as La Porte County Auditor in the ongoing heated conflict within county government.

An anonymous five page flyer depicting Stabosz as incompetent, a source of chaos and hatred along with king maker for most local republicans nowadays also began showing up in mailboxes and on social media.

"Stop the madness" and "time to clean the toxic environment" are among the writings on the front page of the flyer.

Steve Holfield, a farmer from Mill Creek, defeated Stabosz by more than 500 votes to gain the Republican Party nomination for the District 2 seat on the three member La Porte County Commission.

Stabosz agreed there seemed to be an all-out blitz by his critics to stop him, but he felt the primary reason for his loss was democrats crossing over "in droves" to vote republican, but not against him for the most part.

"This is not a repudiation of Tim Stabosz by any means," he said.

La Porte County Republican Party Chairman Allen Stevens said at least 700 republican ballots were pulled by people who cast democratic ballots in the 2022 primary.

Stevens said it's difficult to say what the motive was for such a high crossover but many times it has to do with democrats wanting weaker republican opponents in the November general election.

Stabosz said he believes the crossing over by democrats had more to do with lack of

interest from the party having just one contested county government race and desire to help State Sen. Mike Bohacek of Michiana Shores.

Bohacek, a former democrat, won the party's nomination for a third term in the State Senate District 8 race.

Stabosz said he felt another contributing factor in his defeat was "the false and malicious attacks by his political enemies to misrepresent my record and the truth."

All but one of the candidates Stabosz backed in the primary also lost, including his Chief Deputy Auditor Rhonda Graves.

Graves was defeated by La Porte County Councilman Mike Rosenbaum in the republican race for auditor by 11 percentage points.

Stabosz said his focus now is on serving the remainder of his term as La Porte County Auditor, which expires on January 1, and supporting Holifield in the upcoming campaign.

Holifield will face retired La Porte County Police officer Mike Kellems, who ran unopposed for the Democratic Party nomination.

"We both agreed that we'll be courteous and nice to each other and run on the facts," he said.

The extreme political infighting began after Stabosz and Commissioner Joe Haney took office nearly three and a half years ago.

Most of their allegations have involved ongoing claims of political corruption and county government being run by a good old boys club, resulting in fiery exchanges mostly during commission meetings.

La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody, who has often called for an end to the political fighting, said he felt most voters tired of the negativity spoke their minds at the polls.

"It's great to see those individuals winning that just want to get stuff done. Enough of the crap. I think it's a good day for good government," he said.

GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE A BIG EVENT FOR MICHIANA

River Valley Garden Club's huge plant sale, the "social event of the season," is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 18, at Harbert Community Park, 13300 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, just north of the Chikaming Township Center.

Home grown perennials, flowers, ground cover, vegetable plants, bushes and small trees are all from the gardens of club members. The sale goes on rain or shine.

The plants are all grown locally and don't need to be acclimated to the climate in southwest Michigan or Indiana.

The annual sale includes gardening tools and books as well as the plants. The plants are divided as sun-loving and shade-tolerant, so people can choose plants that work for their environment.

The garden club offers field trips, guest speakers, a member's plant auction and hands-on workshops in addition to the annual plant sale.

Anyone with an interest in gardening is always welcome at the River Valley Garden Club.

The club is also involved in service projects throughout the year. Members come from Indiana and throughout southwest Michigan.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Palulis at 269-362-4564 or email her at evpalulis@yahoo.com.

Also visit the club's website, www.ivervalleygardenclub.org.

— STAFF REPORTS

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FEEDING AMERICA

John's Farm Market debuts at new location

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

After years of being at the same location along U.S. Highway 12 in New Buffalo, John's Farm Market has found a new home in the same town on Red Arrow Highway.

Owner John Fleck said that the 17624 Red Arrow Highway location affords him more room to sell the farm-fresh products that his customers have come to expect.

"It was getting pretty crowded (at the former location) - I was running out of room to do what I needed to do, what I'm doing now," he said.

A view of the greenhouse outside of John's Farm Market

The business sells an assortment of seasonal flowers - perennials in the spring and mums in the fall. Customers will also find local, homegrown Michigan produce, such as a variety of fruits and vegetables.

"I get it from local farms in Berrien County - I get everything local as much as I can," Fleck said.

Store manager Sarah Stewart, who's worked at John's for the past seven years, said that this is especially true at the height of the summer season.

"Fourth of July, everything's almost local because that's when it's ready to be harvested and that's when our store is filled with everything," she said.

This week, Fleck said shelves should be stocked with jams, jellies, salsas and other condiments that were also sold at the former location. Last Thursday, Fleck received some firewood.

Stewart said that having those extra items is one of the reasons customers flock to John's.

"What I like in the summer here is if you have meat or what you want as your entree, you can just go inside and get whatever you need to finish your meal - especially for people who are over here for the weekend and don't really need to buy more groceries," she said.

With a bigger location, Stewart said that they hope to expand their offerings with snacks and candy. The huge garage in the back may be the designated "fall room," with pumpkins and mums.

Besides Stewart, other employees returned to John's after it was closed for a year.

"I think being outside is just good for overall mental health - and John is just easy to work for, we just work well together," she said.

Fleck said his parents owned Busia's Country Market. In 1986, Fleck decided to start the fruit market there.

The highlight of being in business for so long is seeing who walks through the door.

"Meeting different people all the time - it's fun," he said.

Currently, John's Farm Market is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Flowers fill the greenhouse outside John's Farm Market

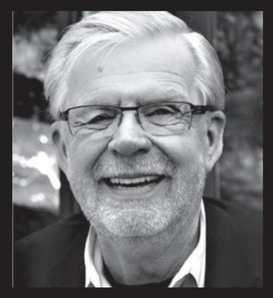
John Fleck and Sarah Stewart stand amid a flower display in front of John's Farm Market

Produce and other fresh items will be inside of John's Farm Market

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Saturday morning, I was in the middle of having breakfast when the phone rang and my friend Rob told me he had a couple of tickets to a skybox, including parking, for the Cubs/Brewers game that he couldn't use and wondered if my lady and I would like them.

My lady was already headed to the shower as I accepted and about 45 minutes later we were on the road. We got caught up in a lot of extra traffic because protesters were blocking Michigan Avenue near the Art Institute, but we got to the game almost on time and began another memorable day at Wrigley Field.

My long life has included many baseball seasons, many of them less successful than I hoped. For some reason, like many Cub fans, as the losses piled up I became even more hopeful and instead of giving up, I became a bigger fan.

Going to games with my dad, wife, brother, daughter, son, grandkids, friends, coworkers, even Sox fans, became a rite of spring and summer. Opening day we had our rituals. Up at the crack of dawn, get to Yak-zie's and sneak in the back door where beer was flowing and radio station WXRT was broadcasting.

Hanging out with my friends, my grown kids and their friends, then going across the street to watch the first game of the season was such a joy. My son getting tickets to a World Series game and coming down from Minneapolis to bring me to the game. The Cubs actually winning the World Series. Cheering outside Wrigley along with thousands of others basking in the glow of our teams first championship in over 100 years.

Back to Saturday. We were given a gift as we entered the private gate, took an elevator up to the box where free food and beverages awaited. There were about 20 people in the box with us, all enjoying the game.

The Cubs jumped out to a lead on Niko Horners lead off homer in the first and expanded that lead on blasts by Christopher Morel and Patrick Wisdom. Jameson Taillon was pitching a two hitter and the Cubs built a 5-0 lead. The Brewers picked on the Cubs bullpen to close the gap to 5-4, but Wisdom got a clutch hit in the eighth to increase the lead to 6-4.

The Brewers got a run in the ninth but their rally fell short for a Cub 6-5 win. The win, along with Sunday's victory, pulled the Cubs into a first place tie with the Brewers. Anyway, it was a beautiful day, the Cubs hit three homers and won the game, a huge ovation happened when the scoreboard showed some Bears in the crowd, including Caleb Williams, and I was blessed to be there. As Harry Caray used to say, you can't beat fun at the old ballpark.

Simone Biles said, "At the end of the day, if I can say I had fun, it was a good day."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

I always break people's noses with the upper cut, not the hook.
— Gervonta Davis

NEW BUFFALO LIBRARY PROGRAM TO EXAMINE LIFE OF CIVIC LEADER, BUSINESSMAN E.K. WARREN

A program at the New Buffalo Township Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, will examine the life of Edward Kirk Warren, the man who brought us Warren Dunes, Warren Woods and featherbone.

Warren shaped Michigan history like few others, bringing prosperity, better roads and other civic improvements, strong religious convictions and a philanthropic streak that still benefits us today. An almost-accidental discovery of a use for previously discarded turkey feathers paid for that philanthropy and brought wealth and jobs to Three Oaks.

Presenter Nick Bogert of The Region of Three Oaks Museum has spent years collecting images and stories about Warren and his family. This presentation, originally delivered at the Historical Society of Michigan, tells a sweeping story of pioneer success that made Warren one of the largest landholders in the country.

All are welcome to attend this program, and admission is free. The presentation is part of the Friends of the New Buffalo Library's Community Forum series.

The library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

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Students get glammed up for masquerade prom

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As was tradition, students walked the red carpet in the New Buffalo Middle/High School Gold Gym before this year's Masquerade Ball-themed prom Saturday, May 4.

Students, some with glittery masks covering their eyes, posed underneath a spotlight in front of an audience of family and friends before piling into their cars for a night of dinner and dancing at Barrel House The Venue in Michigan City.

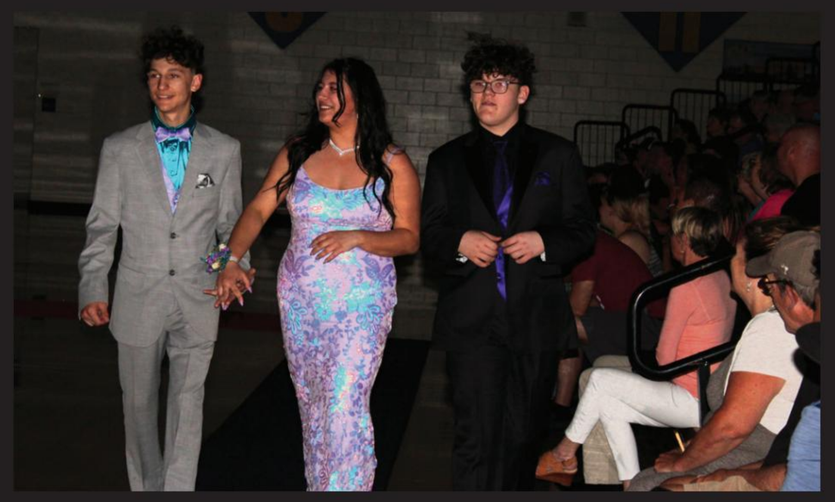
Crowned this year's prom queen and king were seniors Cameron Forker and Laura Wamser. Crowned prom princess and prince were juniors Eva Bauer and Erick Gaeta.

Promgoers walk the red carpet

Prom Princess Eva Bauer and Prom Prince Erick Gaeta

Promgoers struck poses for the Red Carpet event

Students gear up for prom in the gym



Promgoers walk the red carpet for family and friends

Prom King Cameron Forker and Prom Queen Laura Wamser

Walking the red carpet before heading off to prom

Couples walk the red carpet

Students gear up for a masquerade-themed prom

Students in their prom best outfits in the Gold Gym

Promgoers at Red Carpet event for family and friends

Goldberry Woods overhead view of fields and greenhouse

Goldberry Woods farmstand

Goldberry Woods offering garden walks, new planting experience

This month, Goldberry Woods will be in full bloom as it celebrates spring with part two of its 2024 Planting Experiences with a Field Garden Planting Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18.

Back by popular demand, their Market Stand will open with seedlings, merchandise and so much more. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, Julie Haberichter, innkeeper, farmer and owner, will offer Garden Walks from 10-11 a.m. Saturdays.

On May 18, Goldberry will invite the community to join their team for a one-day hands-on experience learning about soil sampling, soil amendments, cover crops and compost. Teams will prep the beds, sow and transplant, mark and label and water and lay irrigation.

The pricing tier for the experience is free to guests of the inn with a three-night stay, a buy one, get one free for guests with a two-night stay or $125 per person for community non-guests. This includes food, beverage, gardening equipment and a take-home gift. Members are advised to wear comfortable outdoor clothes and shoes. Gloves will be provided.

Beginning Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, join Julie as she gives you a unique view into her gardens. From the field gardens to prairies, guests can experience how Goldberry Woods looks full circle: utilizing permaculture, biodynamics, and food forests, while also nurturing beneficial bugs, pollinators and soil health. Goldberry strives to get back to nature and nurture things organically. Through experimentation and observation, the farm's 30-acre property continues to transform into an authentic oasis in Michigan's magical Union Pier

For more details visit www.ombralunare.com. — STAFF REPORTS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MILK BIDS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2024 – 2025

New Buffalo Area Schools is requesting bids for its 2024-2025 dairy needs.

We are requesting bidders to provide pricing for standard packaging. Please provide unit prices that include ALL fees, including fuel surcharges and additional expenses for the following items:

½ pint 1% Chocolate Milk
½ pint 1% White Milk

Ordering processes, delivery, schedules, and procedure for credits of milk should accompany the bid.

Milk must be delivered in clean milk cartons and crates.

Enrollment PK-12 is approximately 540 students. We offer breakfast and lunch to NBAS students and may put milk on our snack menu.

New Buffalo Area Schools will require dairy services beginning August 27th, 2024, through June 30th, 2025.

Bids should be submitted no later than June 3rd, 2024, at 2:00p.m. Please write "MILK BID ENCLOSED" on your envelope.

Mail to:
New Buffalo Area Schools
Food Service Department
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117

We reserve the right to reject any or all bids, or to select the one we deem to be in the best interest of the district.

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Jimmie was fired from her job as a teacher because of who she loves.
In 31 states in this country, it's legal to discriminate against LGBT Americans. That means you can be fired from your job, evicted from your home, or even denied medical services because of who you are or who you love.
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Get the facts at BeyondIDo.org
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Ad Council

Request submitted to build solar farm

BY STAN MADDUX

A battle appears brewing now between farmers and nearby residents on who has more rights as property owners.

A solar energy company is seeking permission to draw energy from the sun on 2,600 acres of farmland in La Porte County.

RWE Clean Energy, LLC is seeking a special exception to the current agricultural zoning of the land in the area of 600 East and 200 North in Kankakee and Wills townships.

Renewable Development Manager Emily McDuff, who works out of the company's office in Chicago, said the amount of electricity produced by the solar panels would at least equal what's needed to power every home in La Porte County.

McDuff said the power would help replace the electricity to be lost when coal fired generating plants in Indiana such as the NIPSCO facility in Michigan City, shutdown in the next couple of years.

She also said about a dozen farm land owners would no longer have to worry about selling their properties for future financial security with the supplemental income they'll be paid for use of their ground as a solar farm under a 35 year lease.

McDuff said the solar farm would also mean about $100 million in property tax revenue for local governments over the lifetime of the operation.

After 35 years, McDuff said the solar farm would be decommissioned and the property restored to farmland.

McDuff also said barriers consisting of plants and other natural growth would be created around each of the sites.

"Our application exceeds La Porte County and the state requirements in areas such as vegetative screening and setbacks from residential neighbors," she said.

Heather Oake of 3306 N. 50 East said the county government solar farm ordinance should be amended to prohibit such operations anywhere near residential areas.

The concerns of residents include lower property values, chemicals possibly leaking from the solar panels over time, glare from the sun and noise.

Oake said she has empathy for the farm land owners not wanting to be forced into possibly selling their ground one day for retirement income, but the views of everyone in the area should be factored into the decision.

"I think we just need to be looking at both sides and really what the majority of the people want. Maybe we should do polling to find out," she said.

Landowners like Cindy Kusper of 5253 E. 150 North defended what they felt was a right to do what they wish with their properties.

She and her husband would be compensated handsomely from about one-third of the solar farm resting on about 950 acres of their farm land currently leased to other farmers.

After the lease expires, the operation would be decommissioned and restored to farm land.

"We have a vision of making that land go back to where it is now. But, in the meantime, it helps us financially and secures us for the future," she said.

Rhonda Haverstock of 2591 N. 600 East said her husband, Jack, is now retired from farming and their ground is rented to other farmers to grow crops.

Haverstock said revenue from a solar farm lease would prevent any possibility of her having to sell land that's been in her family for generations.

She also said her rights to do what she wishes with her property should not be infringed upon.

"We've got children, grandchildren that we'd like to see benefit from this also. I'm asking everyone to consider our property rights," she said.

In response, Oake said she believes there are limits to the rights of someone owning property.

"I do have empathy for the farmers that want to lease their land. On the flip side, we have zoning laws. If we didn't any zoning laws then sure you can do whatever you want with your property but we do have zoning laws," she said.

The BZA is expected to begin considering the proposal at its next meeting on May 21.

OBITUARIES

Linda Thorn Hoffman
1959-2024

Linda passed away peacefully at her home in Scottsdale, Arizona on Feb 18, 2024.

She was born Aug 2, 1959 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and raised in New Buffalo, graduating from NBHS before attending Arizona State University. She leaves behind her husband Ric, brother John Thorn/wife Patty and her two nephews Robert and Conner Thorn and many friends.

To know Linda was to know kindness and generosity. She had a love for travel, music and adventure. She had a contagious smile that would light up a room.

Celebration of life to be held at New Buffalo Yacht Club June 22 from 2:00-6:00 p.m.

Bobby Looney, Jr.
1962-2024

Bobby Looney, Jr., 61, of New Buffalo, MI, passed away on Wednesday – May 1, 2024, at the University of Chicago Hospital. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI.

Bobby was born on July 25, 1962 in Michigan City, IN to the late Bobby Looney, Sr. and Shirley (Baker) Looney.

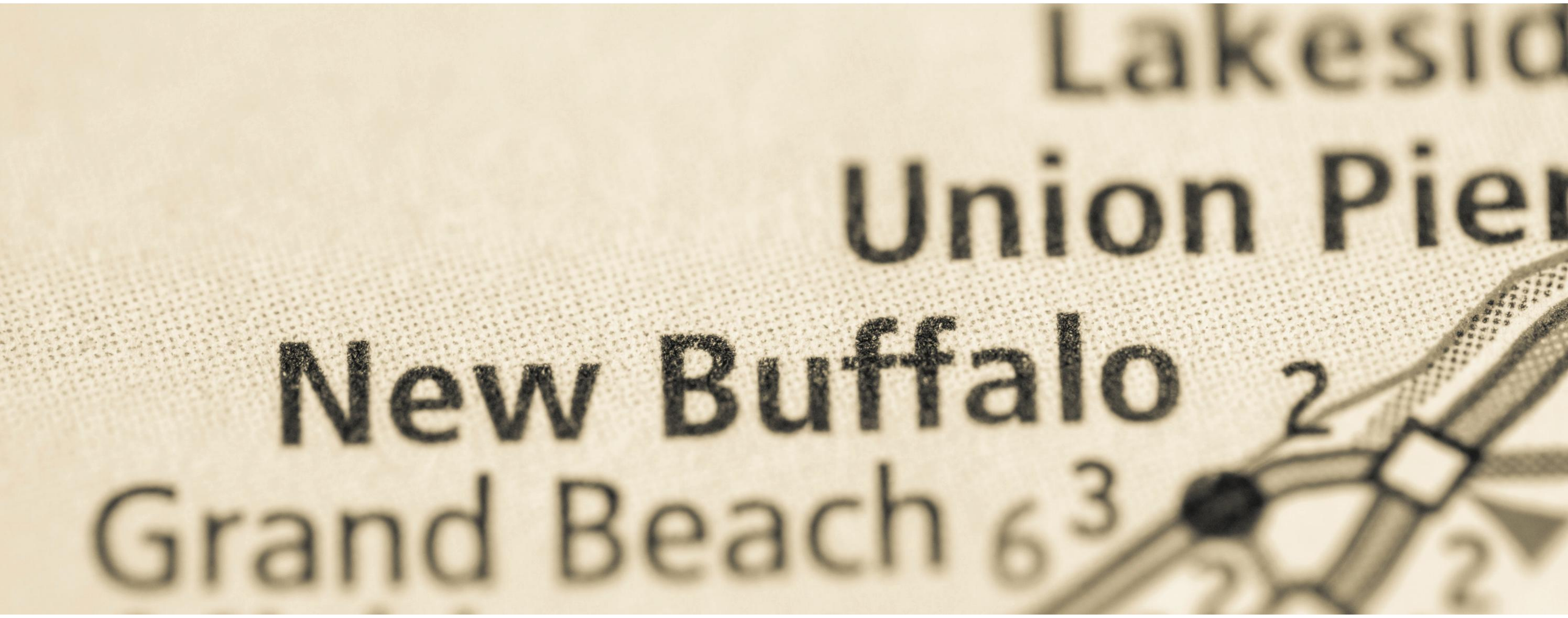
Bobby was a 1981 graduate of New Buffalo High School. He served his country while in the U.S. Air Force. On June 30, 1984 he married Vicki Lynn Uebler. Bobby was a Millwright for appr. 40 years at Weil-McLain in Michigan City.

Bobby valued his family and friends above everything else. He was an avid fisherman, hunter of a variety of game, and all around outdoorsman. He loved to collect all sorts of treasures. His favorite forms of relaxation were riding on the mower out at the farm or driving around town looking for deer.

Bobby is survived by his wife – Vicki Looney of New Buffalo, MI; his children – Samantha (Kelly Suksdorf) Looney of Vancouver, WA and Cody Looney of New Buffalo, MI; as well as his brother – Jerry (Kaye) Looney of Michiana, IN.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 18th at 11am, at the Sommerfeld Chapel in New Buffalo, with Pastor Jim King officiating. Visitation with the family precedes the service from 10-11am at the funeral home. The family will be hosting a Celebration of Life at their family farm immediately following the Memorial Service.

Memorial contributions in Bobby's memory may be made to the Boy Scouts of America or to the NRA. Friends wishing to leave the family a message of condolence may do so at www.sommerfeldchapel.com.



Public Notice:
Your right to know!

for

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

Hikers plan to walk Mt. Tabor Trail

The Harbor Country Hikers will walk the Mt. Tabor Trails in Baroda at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 18.

The trails are mostly on the Valparaiso Moraine, a glacial formation that makes for an interesting, but hilly and twisting hike.

\Hike leader Pat Fisher, president of the Hikers, will talk about some of the most recent local glacial lake history, including the elusive Lake Baroda. May flowers, including mayapples and grapes, should be blooming and the deciduous trees should be pushing out the last of their summer leaves.

Those who attend should be prepared for muddy and slippery ground. Hikers are advised to wear long pants (preferably tucked in), sturdy shoes or boots, a sun hat and insect repellent, and to bring plenty of water. More information about this hike, including driving directions, is available on the group's website, harborcountryhikers.com, and on its Facebook page. Though membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend this hike. — STAFF REPORTS

Film group to screen 'Five Easy Pieces'

The Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran will screen and discuss "Five Easy Pieces" at the New Buffalo Township Library at 6 p.m. Monday, May 20.

The film stars Jack Nicholson, who won an Academy Award nomination in 1970 for his role as Bobby Dupea. Karen Black co-stars as Dupea's girlfriend, Rayette Dipesto.

Dupea is a shiftless 30-something oil rigger and former piano prodigy. He is immune to any sense of responsibility and full of rebellious spirit. Learning that his distant father has suffered a debilitating stroke, Dupea sets out on a road trip to reconsider his past. The music moves from the stirring songs of Tammy Wynette to the gentle music of Chopin as he struggles to find his true self and a comfortable place in the world.

"Five Easy Pieces," from director Bob Rafelson, is at once a simple story and one of the most complex and exciting dramas of its time. Roger Ebert said "Five Easy Pieces" "has the complexity, the nuance, the depth of the best fiction."

All are welcome at film group meetings, and there is no cost to attend. Free popcorn will be available. The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

HOROSCOPE

MAY 9-15, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The energy coming towards you this week will be of the hasty, impatient, and restless kind. Caution against foolhardiness and daredevil moves this week. You have a strong flare for originality and will be "sporting' it" which will get that special someone to take a definite interest.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Even if you sense you are being let down your warm sense of humor matched with true sincerity will get you where you want to be. Use this chance to get ahead. There may be a lot of stop and go movement but when all is said and done you will be ahead of the game.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

A strong appetite for food spiced with flirtation is what's coming your way. You could get an unusual offer of friendship this week. It is also a highly creative time for you. Hidden talents could surface that you never knew existed. They could also bring you extra cash.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

At the start of the week the focus will be on romance and relationships and you will be caring for a loved one. Mid-week the focus will shift to health and nutrition where you will be outlying an eating program and exercise regime. Late week you will turn to work and meeting deadlines.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You have a strong need for friends and family this week. You will find that there is a lot going on with other people that you didn't know about. Listen up and you could get a real ear full. Give the best advice you can and stay detached. Remember to take care of yourself first.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Naturally a hard worker you give it all this week. Your stamina and motivation are inspiring and you will be getting a lot done. You may have a hard time focusing on relationships and on other people's needs now, but there is a lot going on with others so take time for them.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Tactful and diplomatic you put people at ease. You have a way of getting things out of people and helping them identify what the real issues are. This week you will find yourself the peacemaker by doing just that calming people down and getting them clear on their issues. Good luck.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

With this years "super moon" in your sign your psychic powers are turned on! This means facing the truth about someone or something in your life. You have had that gut feeling for some time but now it proves undeniable. You know what that means Time for more change.

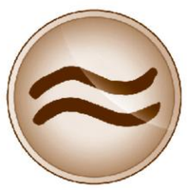
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

This is not the time to shy away from any challenges or conflicts. Counter any self-doubt or self-sabotaging with spontaneity. Do things as soon as you think of them. Tell people how you feel right away. The flow around you is positive and powerful go with it.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

You may feel like your progress is being blocked by forces out of your control. Be it the late arrival of goods or technology not working properly things just are not where you want them. This is actually the time for you to see what you don't need anyway. So let it go.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Fiercely independent you want things your own way. This is hard for people to understand when you are generally so detached. It is that you have a strong desire to win now and will not allow anything to get in your way. Your strong personal drive will put you on top.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

This is a week of opportunity. Whether it is personal or professional it will be exactly what you need to build up your self-esteem and personal power. You may have been feeling alone out there swimming by yourself but your big break is coming and that special someone is there.

It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live. — *Marcus Aurelius*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		7			5	4		
2				9				
	4	8		2				
			2	5			6	
9		3					7	
		4		6			9	
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	5	6					4	
	8		9	3				

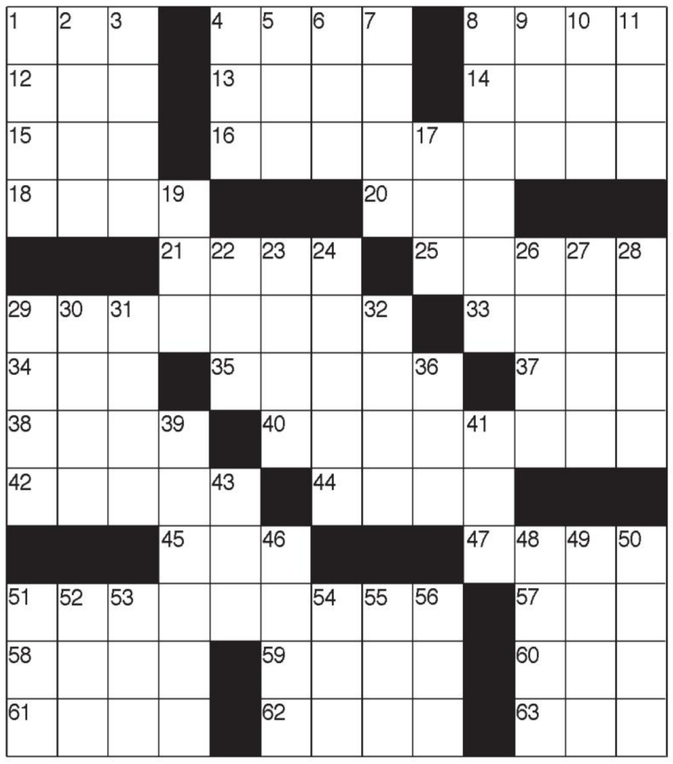
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Bachelor of Hebrew Letters (abbr.)
4 Small lake
8 Down (pref.)
12 Poem
13 Mrs. (Ger.)
14 Slugger's stats
15 Doing business as (abbr.)
16 Cavalier
18 Gumbo
20 Yeomanry (abbr.)
21 Abundant supply
25 Garishness
29 College organization
33 In another manner
34 Former name of Tokyo
35 Remains of what is burned
37 A (Ger.)
38 Back
40 Wanted (2 words)
42 Balinese spear dance
44 Girlfriend of Alley Oop
45 Electroencephalc gram (abbr.)
47 Fine
51 At the same time
57 Sleep state (abbr.)
58 World's first auto in l885
59 Heb. measure
60 Lyric poem
61 Caucasian language
62 Muslim ship's captain
63 New (Ger.)

DOWN

1 Seaport in W. Norway
2 Handbook (abbr.)
3 Shakespearean king
4 Pfennig (abbr.)
5 Metal rock
6 Var. of Anna
7 Tariff
8 Louisiana people
9 Antiballistic missile (abbr.)
10 Aunt (Sp.)
11 Army service number (abbr.)
17 Side of triangle
19 Love (Lat.)
22 Individual retirement acct. (abbr.)
23 Unless, in law
24 People (pref.)
26 Lower intestine
27 Chin. dynasty
28 Parsi scripture
29 Slav
30 Concert halls
31 Cry loudly
32 Old name of Tokyo
36 Selected (abbr.)
39 Wagner opera
41 Bub
43 Seed
46 Jordan valley
48 Hard
49 Give
50 Flightless bird
51 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)
52 Shak. contraction
53 As well as
54 Girl's name
55 Decoration
56 Bitter vetch



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Deadbeat dad arrested for trying to hide casino winnings

BY STAN MADDUX

A Michigan City man is accused of trying to prevent his gambling winnings from going toward back child support.

Lance Halderman, 44, is charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with Level 6 felony cheating at gaming.

According to court documents, Halderman on March 22 won just over $2,000 on a slot machine at Blue Chip Casino.

He then made arrangements for another man at the casino to collect his winnings and give him the money.

In return, he'd give the man $100 and the money that would have to be paid in taxes on the income to collect the winnings.

According to court documents, the plan began to unravel when Halderman couldn't provide security a "reasonable answer" on why he wanted the other man to receive the jackpot.

Eventually, the investigation showed Halderman knew his winnings would be garnished to pay down the child support he owed because of a seizure of his winnings at the casino last year for back child support.

His child support debt then was over $2,200, authorities said.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said his office has authority to garnish not just gambling winnings but other sources of revenue from child support delinquents like tax refunds.

He said information about parents who've fallen behind in their child support is entered into a data base.

Fagan said whether a garnishment order has been issued by a county prosecutor's office or the courts for back child support turns up during a computer check of something like a driver's license number.

"We can seize those funds through the administrative process then use that to apply to arrears and your current support obligation," he said.

According to the Indiana Department of Child Services, information about child support delinquents must be provided to gaming facilities if the debt exceeds $2,000 or court ordered payments are three months past due.

IDCS also revealed gaming facilities are required to verify whether a person is a child support delinquent before handing over their winnings and release winnings to the proper authorities for paying down balances.

Halderman could face an up to 30 month prison sentence.

The man who agreed to collect the jackpot was not charged after he told authorities he didn't know it was against the law and he was just trying to help someone, court records disclosed.

Fagan said arresting people owing child support is not ideal because they can't work to pay down their debts if behind bars.

However, Fagan said taking into custody parents who've fallen way behind in their child support payments becomes an option and often works to the advantage of the recipients.

He said many child support delinquents once arrested somehow come up with the funds to entirely cover what's owed to avoid a potential prison sentence.

"Most parents pay their obligations but when you have someone who doesn't we explore the carrot and the stick approach," he said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Please submit your classified ad via email at classifieds@newbuffalotimes.com. *New Buffalo Times* can now accept online payments with a credit card or paypal. Go to our website, www.newbuffalotimes.com, and submit $14 per week for a classified ad of up to 160 characters. Deadline is Friday 5PM before the following week's publication.

FOR SALE

1985 Posillipo Technema 38' to be sold at auction on May 18, 2024 at Oselka Marina, 514 W Water St, New Buffalo, MI 49117

2001 Carver 39' to be sold at auction on May 28, 2024, at Oselka Marina, 514 W. Water St, New Buffalo, MI 49117.

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DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Carol Vavra, 60, of Three Oaks, died Friday, May 5, 2024. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

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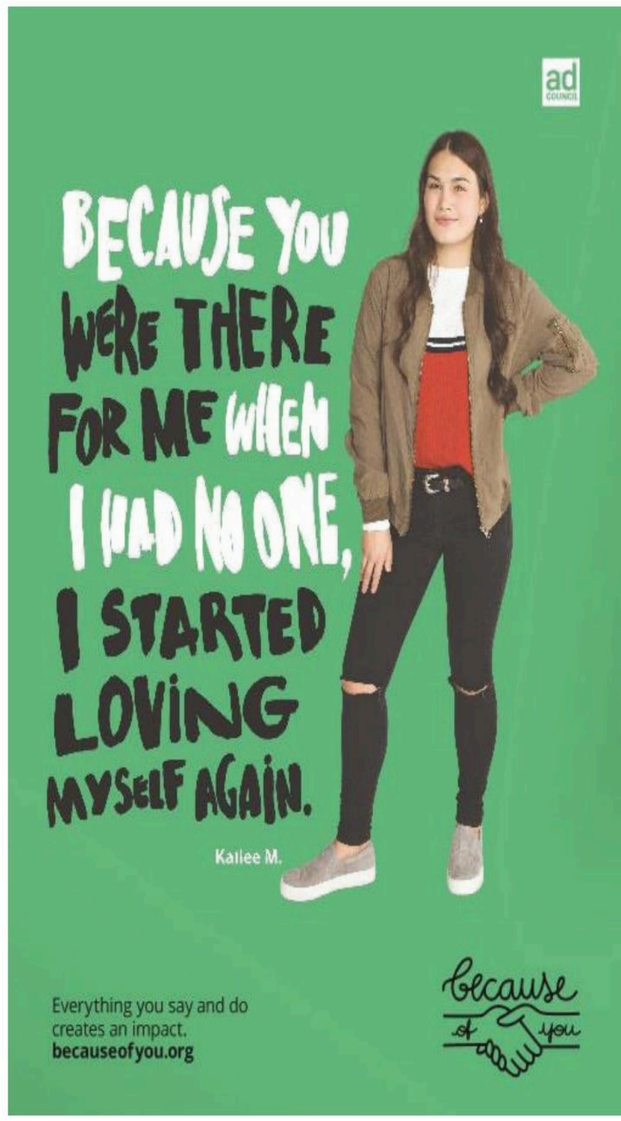
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Kaliee M.
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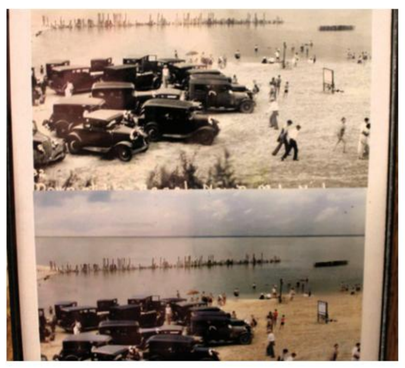
Linda Frederickson at the Hats Through the Decades exhibit

A drinking fountain has been created out of a World War II helmet in the World War II exhibit

TROTOM Board President Randy Miller greets guests at the preview event

A 1920s postcard showing New Buffalo Beach at the mouth of the Galien River has been colorized in the AI gallery



Linda Strohl by the hat that she donated to the museum's Hats Through Decades exhibit

Henry Ford's personal camera is on display in the camera exhibit

Region of Three Oaks Museum debuts 2024 displays

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Since the 1970s, Linda Frederickson has been collecting vintage hats.

"At one time, I had over 100," she said.

Before moving to the area, she gave a "significant part" of her collection to the Charlotte Michigan Museum.

When she heard that The Region of Three Oaks Museum would be having a milliner's exhibit for the 2024 season, she decided to do the same.

The "Hats Through the Decades" exhibit features a wide selection of men's and women's fashions from the days ball caps weren't in style, from bonnets to berets and caps to cloches.

Frederickson said she donated a few from her collection, which would "round out" the museum's collection to 100 years of hats.

She said she's impressed with the museum's collection, which features some women's hats from the 1880s and 1890s, as well as a men's top hat carrier, which would've gone on the back of a stagecoach or the top of one, from the late 1800s.

"The collection you have here is really quite precious - there are some really unique pieces in it that, in all my years of collecting, I haven't come across, so I congratulate the museum on putting together a really nice vintage hat display for the season," she said to museum members at a preview event Thursday, May 2.

The exhibit was put together by Frederickson, Judy Jackson, the museum's artifacts chair, and volunteer Sue Harsch.

Nick Bogert, vice president of the museum board, put together "Cameras and Photographers," which includes a giant box camera of the area's first female photographer, a camera that used to belong to Henry Ford, home movies from as far back as the 1920s, and a "magic lantern." Other new exhibits include "World War II," which features an "Honor Roll" of local veterans as well as their stories of being there when the Nazi death camps were liberated and the first atomic bomb was loaded onto the Enola Gay and a drinking fountain made out of a World War II helmet; "Summer Camps," which was revamped by Bogert and features camps in the Michiana area dating to 100 years ago as well as area resorts and an "AI History Gallery," which spotlights photos from the area from as far back as the 1870s that have been given new life and color thanks to AI.

Eric Lee worked with Randy Miller, museum board president, to install lighting in each of the display cases.

Other members who helped the museum gear up for the season were Kim Weber, Marcie Miles, Marcia Dinges and Bryan Volstorf.

Deb Chamberlain helps with secretarial duties

The museum's board of directors is Miller; Bogert; Chuck Sittig, treasurer; and Julie Sittig, secretary.

Chuck said that the museum will be sponsoring a June 8 rededication of the Dewey Cannon, which will be celebrating its 125th year in Three Oaks this June.

"It was awarded to Three Oaks in 1899, this is 2024 - it's 125 years but the cannon didn't actually arrive until 1890, so we're just trying to get it warmed up," he said.

Guests can enjoy free admission to the museum, a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization located at 5 Featherbone Avenue in Three Oaks, from noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday through October.

Chuck Sittig and Eric Lee admire the lighting in the display cases, which Lee helped install.

Guests view the Summer Camp exhibit at the preview event

Guests mingle at TROTOM's preview event

TROTOM Board President Randy Miller and treasurer Chuck Sittig discuss 2024 exhibits

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